

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the above-captioned patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): A method of improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a computer database;
- (b) determining whether any person entered a first area independent of whether the any person includes a sensor;
- (c) determining whether the any person left the first area and entered a second area
- (d) determining whether the any person washed their hands before leaving the first area;
- (e) if it is determined that the any person washed their hands before leaving the first area, sending this information to the computer database;
- (e) if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands before leaving the first area, determining whether the any person washed their hands in the second area;
- (f) if it is determined that the any person washed their hands in the second area, sending the information to the computer database;
- (g) if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands in the second area, generating at least one of a warning and a reminder; and

(h) if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands after the at least one of the warning and the reminder is generated, sending the information to the computer database.

2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating at least one of the warning and the reminder comprises the step of generating at least one of the warning and the reminder when after the any person enters the second area without washing their hands in the first area, a predetermined amount of time expires without the any person washing their hands in the second area.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal and a visual signal.

4. (Currently Amended): A method of improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

determining whether any person flushed at least one of a restroom toilet and a soil room waste dispenser disposer;

if the any person flushed the at least one of the restroom toilet, and the soil room waste dispenser disposer, determining whether the any person washed their hands within a predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room dispenser disposer;

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands within the predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room dispenser disposer, generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder and sending this information to the central database; and

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands after the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder was generated, sending this information to the central database.

5. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal and a visual signal.

6-8 (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented): An apparatus for improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising:

means for detecting, wherein the means for detecting is configured to detect each of:

whether any person entered a first area independent of whether the any person includes means for communicating with the means for detecting; and

whether the any person left the first area and entered a second area independent of whether the any person includes means for communicating with the means for detecting;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands before leaving the first area;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands in the second area after leaving the first area; and

means for generating at least one of a warning and a reminder when the any person does not wash their hands in the second area after leaving the first area without washing their hands in the first area.

10. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for detecting comprises an IR beam breaker switch.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the at least one of the warning and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal and a visual signal.

13-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended): A system for improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising:

means for determining whether any person flushed at least one of a restroom toilet and a soil room waste dispenser disposer;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands within a predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser disposer;

means for generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder when the any person flushes the toilet and does not wash their hands within the predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser disposer; and

means for transmitting to a central database information associated with whether or not the any person washed their hands after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser disposer.

23. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 22, wherein the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal [and a visual signal].

24-39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended): A method of improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

determining whether any person closed a door independent of whether the person includes a sensor, wherein the door divides a first area from a second area, the second area has at least one of a toilet and a waste dispenser disposer located therein, and the any person closed the door after entering the second area from the first area;

determining whether the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser disposer;

if the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser disposer, determining whether the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area;

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands before opening the door to leave the second area, generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder and sending this information to the central database; and

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands after the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder was generated, sending this information to the central database.

41. (Currently Amended): A system for improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising:

means for determining whether any person closed a door independent of whether the any person includes means for communicating with the means for determining whether the any person closed the door, wherein the door divides a first area from a second area, the second area has at least one of a toilet and a waste dispenser disposer located therein, and the any person closed the door after entering the second area from the first area;

means for determining whether the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser disposer;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area;

means for generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder when the any person flushes the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser disposer and does not wash their hands before opening the door to leave the second area; and

means for transmitting to a central database information associated with whether or not the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area.